

MONTHLY SORTIE GOALS

91st Airborne Air Control Squadron	
Monthly flying-hour contract	18.9
Hours flown	22.3
Monthly offset	3.4
90th Air Refueling Squadron	
Monthly sortie contract	75.0
Hours flown	63.0
Monthly offset	-12.0
47th Fighter Squadron	
Monthly sortie contract	163.8
Sorties flown	58.8
Monthly offset	-105.0
44th Fighter Squadron	
Monthly sortie contract	66.0
Sorties flown	77.9
Monthly offset	11.9
33rd Rescue Squadron	
Monthly flying-hour contract	43.0
Hours flown	60.5
Monthly offset	17.5

Source: 18th MOS/IMXOP, as of Jan. 9

THE KADENA



Vol. 21, No. 1

Kadena Air Base, Japan

Friday, Jan. 13, 2006

WEEKEND WEATHER

TODAY: Mostly cloudy NE winds @ 15-25 knots High: 63 Low: 55
SATURDAY: Mostly cloudy NE winds @ 10-15 knots High: 63 Low: 52
SUNDAY: Partly cloudy N winds @ 10-15 knots High: 64 Low: 54

FRIDAY MORNING'S
COMMUNITYBANK
EXCHANGERATES
BUYING: \$1=\$112 SELLING: \$117-\$1

Rescuers earn MacKay Trophy

2 Kadena Airmen recall sortie through sandstorm

By Master Sgt.
Adam Johnston
18th Wing Public Affairs

"I almost died that night, but the mission was the highlight of my career."

That's how Kadena's Staff Sgt. John Griffin of the 31st Rescue Squadron recalls a daring rescue over Iraq that he says was the ride of his life.

Kadena Staff Sgt. Michael Rubio of the 320th Special Tactics Squadron was there too. He remembers being pinned by gravity against an inside wall of a weaving HH-60 Pave Hawk continuously slapping a button to set off flares to decoy pursuing surface-to-air missiles. "It was pretty unsettling," said Sergeant Rubio.

So unsettling was the mission of two Air Force helicopters flying like yo-yos through a raging sandstorm while dodging missiles 70



Courtesy Photo

Staff Sgt. John Griffin, a pararescueman with the 31st Rescue Squadron, (second from right), and Staff Sgt. Michael Rubio, a pararescueman with the 320th Special Tactics Squadron (third from right), stand with the 13-member crews of Jolly 11 and Jolly 12 that braved a sandstorm and dodged rockets to rescue five Army aviators near Kharbut, Iraq, in April 2004.

miles southeast of Baghdad that Sergeant Rubio admits when it was over, "I didn't even tell my wife."

But now she knows. And so do the writers of Air Force history.

Last month both Kadena

pararescuemen – along with 11 other crew members from their former unit at Moody Air Force Base, Ga. – were hon-

ored in Washington, D.C. by the Air Force and the National Aeronautic Association with the MacKay Trophy.

The trophy – presented Dec. 5, 2005 – is awarded annually to Airmen or an organization involved in the "most meritorious flight of the year." During the flight of Jolly 11 and Jolly 12, the Airmen rescued five Soldiers whose helicopter crashed in a sandstorm near Kharbut, Iraq.

"Until we received word about the trophy, I'd never even heard of it," said Sergeant Griffin. "But when I realized what it was, I was like, wow, I can't believe we're in the same category as some of the previous winners."

The trophy was first awarded in 1911 and is on display at the National Air and Space Museum. The call sign of the flights the Kadena-

See MACKAY, Page 4



Courtesy Photo

In March 2003, Staff Sgt. James Light, a combat controller with the 320th Special Tactics Squadron, led a team that captured an oil facility in Iraq. Sergeant Light's mission during Operation Iraqi Freedom permitted relaxed grooming standards.

Kadena combat controller earns Bronze Star with Valor for Iraq work

By Master Sgt.
Marilyn C. Holliday
353rd Special Operations
Group Public Affairs

A Kadena Airman who led a team of military members in capturing an enemy oil facility while under fire during the Iraq War in 2003 received a

Bronze Star with Valor recently.

Staff Sgt. James Light, a combat controller with the 320th Special Tactics Squadron, was presented the medal by Brig. Gen. Jan-Marc Jouas, 18th Wing commander, during a ceremony Jan. 3 at

See STAR, Page 4

Shoguns deploy for AEF 10

Photos and story by
Staff Sgt. Chyrece Campbell
18th Communications
Squadron

More than 200 Shoguns have deployed from Kadena since the beginning of the year and another 200 are expected to depart soon to support Air Expeditionary Force 10 taskings.

For the last month, families and friends have said good-byes and wished their loved ones safe returns, especially for the many Airmen deploying to combat operational areas during this AEF cycle.

"This is my first deployment, but I was lucky to be able to spend time with my family for the holidays," said Tech. Sgt. Sheila Cregger, 18th Maintenance Operations Squadron.

"I'm glad that I'll be deployed with fellow Kadena members. I'm looking forward



Airmen from Kadena and Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, ride a bus to their plane before leaving Kadena in the early morning of Jan. 5. Another 200 Airmen from Kadena are expected to depart soon for Air Expeditionary Force 10 taskings.

to doing my part for the Air Force and coming back home safely," she added.

"I have a wonderful opportunity to lead and look after troops while we're deployed,"

said Senior Master Sgt. James Reid, 18th Munitions Squadron first sergeant.

"I returned from a deployment about this time last year

See DEPLOY, Page 4

HOW DOES A 3.1% RAISE IMPACT YOUR PAY? SEE CHART PAGE 6



Happy New Year Team Kadena!

By Brig. Gen.
Jan-Marc Jouas
18th Wing commander

After a great ending to another remarkable year for the Airmen of Okinawa, we kicked off 2006 in fitting manner for the Air Force's biggest combat wing. While many slept in on New Years Day, early that morning a large number of Civil Engineers and families gathered to send off their friends and loved ones, as the 18th Wing bid farewell to its first AEF rotation of 2006. This simple gathering epitomized our focus and dedication as Airmen: to be ready when our nation calls, and to take care of our wingmen. The pride we take in fulfilling our mission -- anytime, anyplace -- was felt by all as the buses pulled away and those that remained behind saluted our warriors. Throughout this month this scene will be repeated many times, as over 400 of our teammates will don their Desert Combat Uni-



forms and head off for Iraq, Afghanistan, and other deployed locations. Our thoughts and prayers go with them, as we await their safe return in a few months.

By the way -- when you see one of our wingmen wearing DCUs, give them a kind word, and if they're in line somewhere, let them move to the front. While they're deployed remember that we are an Air Force Family -- please support the spouses, invite them to squadron functions, make sure they know who to call if a need arises, and keep them informed of the many programs we have for deployed families. These include tomorrow's Operation KUDOS (Kids Understanding Deployment Operations), deployed spouses dinners, Heartlink, and other activities available through the chapel and family support center.

As we progress through this post-holiday period, we're reminded that it's a time of year when people often get the blues—a loved one may be deployed, or other factors may arise that can lead to depression, or worse. Last February we lost one of our own to suicide, and just two weeks ago we lost a member of our Air Force family at Yokota, also to suicide. Remain vigilant for any of our wingmen—military, civilian, family

members—who may be showing dangerous signs of stress or intentions to harm themselves. Chaplains, life skills counselors, commanders, shirts, *wingmen*...are available to all of us, and at some point, we all need them. Don't hesitate to reach out, and if you're uncomfortable doing it yourself, talk to a supervisor, or call our help line at 634-HELP.

I believe in good people much more than good luck, and I want to thank everyone who didn't drink and drive for the last 34 days -- we are now less than four weeks away from 60 days without a DUI! December was an awesome month, the best yet -- keep up the great work. Remember, if you drink, please drink responsibly -- and never drink and drive. Have a plan, or have a wingman!

You're an extraordinary team, Team Kadena. As we look ahead to the challenges and opportunities of 2006, take pride in the jobs you selflessly do every day -- you are keeping America and our allies safe. Be proud of your outstanding professionalism, your readiness to answer our nation's call, and your commitment to taking care of our wingmen. Marion and I wish you a blessed and rewarding 2006 as you continue to serve our nation with such remarkable talent, commitment and sacrifice.

Letter to Airmen

By Michael W. Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force

Happy New Year--and thank you again for the sacrifices you make in the service of this great nation! I had the privilege of spending some of the holidays with our deployed Airmen across the area of responsibility and in Europe. I know those I met miss their loved ones and homes, but all impressed me with their professionalism, innovation, and spirit. As always, I return invigorated and excited about our World's Finest Air Force!

I witnessed many innovations introduced by Airmen that help us make the most of our time and resources. For example, our combined air operations center at Al Udeid

controls air operations for the entire CENTCOM AOR. We are able to run operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Horn of Africa from a single Combined Air Operations Center. This centralized headquarters equates to a smaller headquarters staff, while simultaneously empowering the Airmen actually engaged to make the execution decisions. This is a great example of Air Force Smart Operations 21 -- questioning assumptions, examining processes, and eliminating waste and duplication. On a more individual level, we've prepositioned individual deployment gear at Al Udeid. This makes the lives of our Airmen easier, we lose less equipment and we avoid over \$32 million per year in airlift costs, all due to a single common sense suggestion.

At Kirkuk, Balad, Ali, Bagram, Ramstein and

Spangdahlem Air Base, I met face to face with thousands more of the Air Force's finest, and at every stop I heard similarly remarkable stories of how our innovative and creative Airmen applied imaginative solutions to everyday processes and combat challenges. Such ingenious ideas are just what we need to transform our Air Force into the integrated and interdependent force it will become to remain the world's preeminent fighting force. As your Secretary, I will foster such resourcefulness across our Air Force -- Active, Guard and Reserve; Enlisted, Officer, and Civilian; at home and abroad.

To our deployed warriors, thank you again for welcoming me and for all you've done to foster the "Miracle of Southwest Asia"--furthering freedom and democracy throughout the region. For

those deployed to Iraq, many of you witnessed the Constitutional Referendum there, the General Election (in which nearly 70% of the electorate took part), and the first flight of an entirely Iraqi C-130 crew. I fully expect we will continue to see democratic processes taking root across Iraq, choking out the ideology of violence and intolerance. I encourage you to share your stories with friends, families and associates upon your return.

To all of you who stand alert and prepared, here at home and around the world, you are accomplishing miracles everyday. Your efforts create the environment and innovation that spark the pride that I saw--the pride of being an Airman. On behalf of a grateful Air Force and an appreciative nation, I salute you.

Don't drink & drive
It has been...
34 days
since the last DUI arrest on Kadena.
60 days = 18th Wing Down Day



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Public Affairs Chief.....Lt. Col. Michael Paoli
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For editorial submissions, send E-mail to kadenashogun.news@per@kadena.af.mil

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SHOGUN WARRIORS OF THE WEEK

Editor's note : Shogun Warriors are selected by unit leaders for their outstanding value to their unit and dedication to the Kadena mission. To nominate someone, send the name of your nominee to your unit commander or senior enlisted leaders.



Senior Airman Laloni Butcher
Unit: 18th Dental Squadron
Hometown: Tacoma, Wash.
Reason for nomination: Airman Butcher manages the Dental Readiness Class 3 program for Kadena which schedules, monitors, and tracks members in non-deployable status until they are deployable. Team Kadena's ready percentage rates have dramatically increased since she took charge of the program.
Time at Kadena: 1 year, 1 month.



Staff Sgt. Tom Arnold
Unit: 18th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Hometown: Houston, Texas
Reason for nomination: Sergeant Arnold has demonstrated superior sustained leadership abilities while performing multiple roles as flight line expeditor, crew chief and the only seven-level on shift, ensuring mission success during deployments and alert missions.
Time at Kadena: 4 years, 6 months.

This week in 18th Wing History
In January 1945, the 18th Fighter Group moved to Luzon Island in the Philippines. The new location allowed the 18th FG to conduct raids in three directions: to the southwest from Borneo to Palawan, westward to the China coast, and northward to Formosa.

Icy deployment...warm welcome home



Air Force/Staff Sgt Chyrece Campbell

Maj. Harry Benham is welcomed home by daughters Ava, 9, Anna, 8, and Aubrey, 11, after returning Tuesday from an Air Expeditionary Force deployment in Iceland. Major Benham deployed with the 67th Fighter Squadron and is one of 50 Kadena Airmen who returned this week after supporting the AEF 7 tasking.

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE: Did you know? Problem drinkers average four times as many days in the hospital as nondrinkers—mostly because of drinking-related injuries.

POWER OUTAGE: There will be power outages in the Washington Heights housing area Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Jan. 26 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

FSC OPEN HOUSE: The Kadena Fam-

ily Support Center will host an open house Jan. 20 from 12 to 4:30 p.m. in Bldg. 99. Join the staff in welcoming the new year and check out the many services, classes and workshops the FSC offers. For more information, call 634-3366.

ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION: An Environmental, Safety, and Occupational Health Compliance Assessment and Management Program inspection is scheduled for Kadena from Jan. 23 to

26. Pacific Air Forces inspectors will verify compliance with local, Air Force and Japanese laws and regulations. Inspectors will conduct shop visits, site tours and interviews with base employees. Unit environmental coordinators are the focal points for their respective units. For more information contact Catherine Trice at 634-5434.

TAXCENTER: The Kadena Tax Center opens Jan. 31. Anyone

interested in becoming a unit tax advisor should contact Leslie Best at 634-7784 or Tech. Sgt. Angela Hill at 634-1025.

DRAGONBOATVOLUNTEERS: Men and women are needed for teams that will participate in this year's Naha Dragon Boat Race scheduled for May 5. Volunteers must be Airmen, civilian employees or family members over the age of 18. Those interested may attend an initial meeting Jan. 27 at 3 p.m. in the 18th Medical Group's Shimabukuro Conference Room.

TRASH TIP: Team Kadena members are asked to be good environmental stewards by properly disposing of waste. Trash or refuse must be placed inside a trash can or dumpster and the lid closed. Trash not being recycled must also be separated into burnable and non-burnable.

FLUPREVENTION: Flu and colds are caused by viruses that infect the nose, throat and lungs. They are passed on from person-to-person when infected people cough or sneeze. To prevent spreading of these germs, 18th Medical Group officials recommend the following:

- Cover mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing. Use a tissue when possible and dispose of it.

STEP'ing up



Air Force/SSgt. Chyrece Campbell

(Left to right) Tech. Sgts. Samuel Pickering, 718th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Joshua Caron, 18th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron; and Jonathan Bamburg, 18th Civil Engineer Squadron; received on-the-spot promotions to E-6 last month under the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program. Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Hill (not pictured), 18th CES, was also STEP promoted to master sergeant.

- Clean hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer after sneezing or coughing.
- Wash hands often with soap and warm water for 15 to 20 seconds. The soap combined with scrubbing action helps dislodge and remove germs.

PACAF command chief: War on Terror #1 priority

By Senior Master Sgt.
Kenneth Fidler
18th Wing Public Affairs

Editor's Note: The following is Part 1 of a 3-part series from an interview with Chief Master Sgt. Rodney McKinley, command chief master sergeant for Pacific Air Forces. Chief McKinley visited Kadena Jan. 6-7. As the command chief, he advises the PACAF commander, Gen. Paul Hester, on enlisted issues. In this first part, he talks about the war on terror.

Winning the war on terror continues to take top priority for the Air Force as the service integrates more into non-traditional deployment roles, said the Pacific Air Forces top enlisted leader.

"We are becoming more of a battlefield Airman," said Chief McKinley. "The most important thing we have on our plate is winning this war on terror... to make sure that everyone's mindset is focused on being properly trained, equipped and ready to go to fight."

He said Gen. T. Michael Moseley, Air Force Chief of Staff, has made this clear to all Airmen. During his change of command on Sept. 2, General Moseley said the Air Force has been fighting the war on terror



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Chyrece Campbell

Chief Master Sgt. Rodney McKinley, Pacific Air Forces command chief master sergeant, speaks to Kadena Airmen at a luncheon Jan. 6 during his tour of Kadena Air Base.

longer than World War II.

And, in a speech in October, General Moseley put that into perspective: "This is the most combat experienced American Air Force we've had since the end of World War II. The percentage of people in combat, the percentage of people that have been shot at, the percentage of people that have returned fire, the percentage of people that have lived on expeditionary airfields, the percent-

age of people that have operated on expeditionary airfields under attack from ballistic missiles...all of those operational readiness evaluations and operational readiness inspections that we used to have in the bad old days that we complained about ad nauseam - about having to conduct business in MOPP 4 Condition Black - nearly goes out the window when you've had the 13th missile hit your airfield and you're generating

sorties and loading bombs."

To Chief McKinley, this means the Air Force is evolving into new, interdependent roles with its sister services, and more and more Airmen deploy into non-traditional roles, such as convoy duty. "If the Army needs us to help to win the war, we need to do what we can to help them," Chief McKinley said.

Changing the Air Force mentality into more of a "warrior" mindset now starts at Air Force Basic Training, Chief McKinley explained. "From Day 1, we issue an M-16 ... to get into the mindset of being a warrior more than what we have in the past."

During his visit, the Chief visited base work centers, spoke with Airmen, and talked with a group of Kadena deployers preparing to leave for tours in the Middle East. He tells deployers to remember their training and do the best job possible.

"While they are deployed, they need to concentrate on the task at hand to take care of the job they've been assigned," Chief McKinley said, "and know, that back here in their wing, the folks at home are going to take care of their families and their shops."

Next week: Uniform changes: The new Airman Battle Uniform and the recent changes to the physical fitness uniform.



MACKAY: 'If I can't see anything, what can the pilot see?'

Continued from Page 1
-based staff sergeants were on - Jolly 11 and Jolly 12 - are listed on the trophy along with aviation pioneers Chuck Yeager, Jimmy Doolittle and Hap Arnold.

But according to Sergeant Griffin, the Jolly 11 and 12 missions almost never happened.

On April 16, 2004, three Army helicopters were flying a re-supply mission when they ran into a sandstorm. While two helicopters were able to avoid the storm, the third couldn't. While setting down to avoid a possible mid-air collision, the right landing gear of the Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter collapsed. The helicopter rolled. The crew was left stranded and could not be contacted.

Initially officials tried to find another way to rescue the crew.

When they couldn't, Sergeant Griffin said a 13-member rescue team launched into the clear skies of Balad Air Base, Iraq, around midnight.

"Going out there we didn't know if they were alive or not because there was no radio communication with the crew," said Sergeant Griffin. In the back of the helicopter he prepared body bags and special equipment to cut dead crewmen from the carcass of the helicopter. Twenty-five minutes into the flight, he said, "The weather just went to crap."



Courtesy Photo

The wreckage of the Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter lies on its side in the Iraqi desert. Kadena pararescuemen Staff Sgts. John Griffin of the 31st Rescue Squadron and Michael Rubio of the 320th Special Tactics Squadron helped rescue its five crewmembers on April 16, 2004 after flying through a sandstorm and dodging surface-to-air missiles 70 miles southeast of Baghdad.

The crews had reached the sandstorm.

"It was like looking at pea soup," Sergeant Rubio said. "You could only see about as far as 50 feet."

"I couldn't see anything," said Sergeant Griffin. "It was freaking me out." As the helicopter started yo-yoing up and down, Sergeant Griffin looked through his night vision goggles and asked himself, "If I can't see anything, what can the pilot see?"

Nothing.

According to published reports, the sandstorm had rendered infrared sensors and night vision goggles ineffective for both HH-60 pilots. They were flying "blind" using only

instruments.

"The pilots tell that part of the story better," said Sergeant Griffin with a laugh. What he said he remembers about the flight is that he'd see nothing underneath the helicopter, then all of a sudden he'd see the ground. Yelling, "Pull up. Pull up," he said the ground would quickly disappear. The scene happened repeatedly.

After finally landing, Sergeant Griffin was in for another surprise. The crew was not in the aircraft. They were OK and assembled to the left of the crashed Chinook. "I was surprised that no one was hurt," he said. "I asked if anyone was injured and one guy

said, 'I kneeled down on a rock. Does that count?'"

"Get on the helicopter," Sergeant Griffin yelled back.

Quickly getting the crew on board, Sergeant Griffin said he closed the rear door of the helicopter as it lifted off and looked at the stunned faces of the rescued crew.

Sergeant Rubio said his helicopter lifted off with the door open. As the helicopters rose above the sand storm, the next thing he remembers is hearing "corkscrew smoke trail at 5 o'clock" from a fellow crewmember, and the helicopter bobbed to avoid a surface-to-air missile.

Sergeant Rubio - who was on his first operational deploy-

ment as a pararescuemen - said he remembers stretching his arm back to hit a button to launch flares and chaff while struggling against gravity as the aircraft banked.

No simple task.

But it worked.

After arriving back at Balad, both staff sergeants said they couldn't sleep. "I was wired," said Sergeant Griffin. "I think I sat down and watched a video," said Sergeant Rubio.

Days after the mission, they said they started noticing something different. People around the base - particularly Soldiers - were thanking them for what they did that night.

"It really boosted the capability of the Air Force in their eyes," said Sergeant Rubio.

Sergeant Griffin - originally from Philadelphia - said his family was able to see the award presentation last month and that they were proud of him. "I was just part of a team," he said. "I'm from a pretty close-knit family and I think they're pretty happy with the person I became."

"My parents worry a lot," said Sergeant Rubio. "My mother's the type that doesn't stand for anyone shooting surface-to-air missiles at her son. So, I don't tell them much about what I do," he said. "It's easier that way."

But that may be harder for Sergeant Rubio in the future. Especially when folks like him and Sergeant Griffin do work that's history in the making.



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Chyrece Campbell

Col. Jeff Kennedy, 18th Wing vice commander, shakes hands with Senior Airman Amanda Tokarz, 18th Operations Support Squadron, during a deployment departure ceremony Jan. 5.

DEPLOY: 400+ to leave

Continued from Page 1

and here I am sending my wife off," said Chief Master Sgt. Eddie Gilder, 18th Equipment Maintenance Squadron first sergeant. "When I deployed it was rejuvenating to be doing work for my country, I was re-blued as the old Air Force saying goes," he said.

"I'm glad that my husband was here to see me off," said Master Sgt. Jennifer Gilder, 18th Mission Support Squadron's manpower office superintendent. "I am so excited to get my chance to do a wartime tasking and apply the skills that I've obtained from training," she added.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, Kadena has deployed over 16,367 Airmen to more than 70 different locations.

STAR: 'It was all pretty overwhelming'

Continued from Page 1

the base theater. Between March 20 and 21, 2003, Sergeant Light was attached to the Navy Special Warfare Task Unit at Combined Forces Special Operations Command Central supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He was tasked to seize Iraq's southern crude oil export facility early in the war based on intelligence that the former regime was to destroy that system.

Following a delayed infiltration due to enemy resistance at the helicopter landing zone, Sergeant Light's team air assaulted into the area via MH-53M helicopter right in the middle of a firefight. Taking cover, Sergeant Light directed an AC-130 gunship to stop enemy soldiers firing small arms from dug-in fighting positions.

The strikes proved devastating.

Numerous enemy soldiers were killed, two observation posts destroyed and the perimeter was secured for a follow-on coalition assault.

At the time, Sergeant Light said he could only think about the mission.

"It was a little hectic," he said. "There was a lot going through my mind. First and foremost, I tried to build a picture of the battlefield. The idea of fratricide is much more frightening than enemy fire."

Sergeant Light's team captured 11 soldiers, secured high priority oil block valves, and gath-

ered intelligence used to determine enemy disposition, capabilities and tactics.

Sergeant Light said he's been a proud member of the special tactics team. "All of us go through a lot to become part of this family," he said. "It is a huge sacrifice to be a part of special tactics. For me, I have my own personal reasons for serving. I serve to honor my brothers-in-arms who didn't make it back. Those are the people who gave the ultimate sacrifice."

When asked about the medal presentation, Sergeant Light said he was only doing his job.

"In truth it is very humbling," he said. "I really did no more than any other of my peers would have done given the situation. It was all pretty overwhelming."

"The responsibility we levy on our junior NCOs in today's Air Force, and even more so in Air Force Special Operations Command, is truly amazing," Lt. Col. Brett Nelson, 320th Special Tactics Squadron commander, said after the ceremony.

"Their success in all our endeavors, from defeating our enemies on the battlefield to aiding those harmed by natural disasters, is a true testament to their character, courage and determination. It is truly humbling to work with and support these great Americans that see their valor as nothing more than what their peers would have done given the same situation."

In the last four years, six members of the 320th STS have earned Bronze Stars.



(Right) Army Sgt. Major James Harmon, Kadena Chiefs Group vice president, lights the top enlisted candle, while (center) Senior Master Sgts. Richard Mabry, 82nd Reconnaissance Squadron, and Michael Sundberg, 353rd Operations Support Squadron, look on, during the chief promotion and recognition ceremony held Saturday in the Rocker NCO Club. More than 450 military, civilian employees and family members attended the ceremony, held to recognize 16 honorees from the Air Force, Navy, Marines and Japan Air Self-Defense Force who have reached their service's top enlisted rank. Chief Master Sgt. Rodney McKinley, Pacific Air Forces command chief, served as the guest speaker. (Photos by Airman 1st Class Stephanie Sinclair)



Kadena chiefs host promotion, recognition ceremony

[Clockwise from above]

SPEECH: Pacific Air Forces Command Chief Master Sgt. Rodney McKinley gives advice to the new E-9s during a speech at the chiefs' promotion and recognition ceremony.

CAKE ANYONE?: Chief Master Sgt. Allan Bourbina, left, 18th Maintenance Group, and honoree Senior Master Sgt. Bruce Dixon, 320th Special Tactics Squadron, cut the cake at the chiefs' promotion and recognition ceremony.

CAPTURING THE MOMENT: Senior Master Sgt. David Patterson, 353rd Maintenance Squadron, and wife Beverly, receive a memento from Brig. Gen. Jan-Marc Jouas, 18th Wing commander, during the promotion and recognition ceremony as Chief McKinley smiles for the camera.

MEMORABLE ENTRANCE: Honoree Senior Master Sgt. Matthew Gibson, 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron, walks through a cordon with wife Susana, as Chief Master Sgts. Cedric Council, Stephen Gambert and others present sabers.





Military gets 3.1% pay raise

By Donna Miles
American Forces
Press Service

WASHINGTON -- President George W. Bush ushered in an across-the-board 3.1 percent military pay raise, effective Jan. 1.

He signed the 2006 National Defense Authorization Bill into law Jan. 6, which includes a variety of new or enhanced benefits for servicemembers and their families.

In addition to a pay raise that's a half percent higher than the average private-sector increase, the new budget provides about 20 new or increased bonuses, special pays and benefits. This reflects a trend DOD officials emphasize is becoming increasingly rare in the private sector.

The new law provides a variety of benefits designed to better compensate servicemembers, improve their quality of life, bring reserve-component benefits more on par with those for the active force, and promote recruiting and retention. Chuck Witschonke, DOD's deputy director for compensation, said.

"Not only does it contain the routine annual pay raise, which is one-half percent higher than the raise measured in the private sector, but it also includes a number of increases in ceilings on some very important pays," he said.

Among the law's most significant features are:

- An increase in the maximum reenlistment bonus offered, from \$60,000 to 90,000;
- A higher maximum enlistment bonus, up from \$20,000 to \$40,000;
- A new ceiling on hardship-duty pay, from \$300 to \$750 a month;
- A doubling of the maximum assignment incentive pay for hard-to-fill billets or assignments, from \$1,500 to \$3,000 a month, now payable either in a lump sum or installments;
- A new allowance to cover the first \$150,000 in Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance premiums for troops serving in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom;
- A new bonus for servicemembers who agree to transfer from one service to another and serve for at least three years is up to \$2,500;
- An incentive pay of up to \$1,000 for servicemembers who refer someone who enlists in the Army and successfully completes basic training;

MONTHLY BASIC PAY TABLE - EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2006													
Pay Grade	YEARS OF SERVICE												
	<2	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 6	Over 8	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18	Over 20	Over 22
COMMISSIONED OFFICERS													
O-10												13,365.00	13,430.40
O-9												11,889.50	11,857.50
O-8	8,271.00	8,541.90	8,721.60	8,772.00	8,996.10	9,371.10	9,458.10	9,814.20	9,918.20	10,222.80	10,666.20	11,075.40	11,348.70
O-7	6,872.70	7,191.90	7,339.80	7,457.10	7,669.80	7,879.50	8,122.50	8,364.90	8,607.90	8,971.10	10,015.80	10,015.80	10,015.80
O-6	5,094.00	5,596.20	5,963.40	5,963.40	5,965.90	6,242.70	6,276.60	6,276.60	6,633.30	7,263.90	7,634.10	8,004.00	8,214.60
O-5	4,246.50	4,783.50	5,115.00	5,177.10	5,383.50	5,507.40	5,779.20	5,978.70	6,238.10	6,630.60	6,818.10	7,003.80	7,214.40
O-4	3,663.90	4,241.40	4,524.30	4,587.80	4,850.10	5,131.80	5,482.20	5,755.80	5,945.40	6,054.30	6,117.60		
O-3	3,221.40	3,651.90	3,941.70	4,297.50	4,503.00	4,728.90	4,875.30	5,115.90	5,240.70				
O-2	2,783.10	3,170.10	3,651.00	3,774.30	3,852.00	3,852.00	3,852.00	3,852.00	3,852.00				
O-1	2,416.20	2,514.60	3,039.60	3,039.60	3,039.60	3,039.60	3,039.60	3,039.60	3,039.60				
COMMISSIONED OFFICERS WITH OVER 4 YEARS ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE AS AN ENLISTED MEMBER OR WARRANT OFFICER													
O-3E				4,297.50	4,503.00	4,728.90	4,875.30	5,115.90	5,318.40	5,434.50	5,592.90		
O-2E				3,774.30	3,852.00	3,974.70	4,181.40	4,341.80	4,460.70				
O-1E				3,039.60	3,246.30	3,366.00	3,488.70	3,609.30	3,774.30				
ENLISTED MEMBERS													
E-9							4,022.10	4,113.30	4,228.20	4,363.50	4,498.40	4,717.80	4,902.30
E-8						3,292.50	3,438.30	3,528.30	3,636.30	3,753.30	3,964.50	4,071.60	4,253.70
E-7	2,288.70	2,498.10	2,593.80	2,720.70	2,819.40	2,989.50	3,084.90	3,180.30	3,350.40	3,435.60	3,518.30	3,565.80	3,732.80
E-6	1,979.70	2,178.00	2,274.30	2,367.60	2,465.10	2,685.00	2,770.50	2,865.30	2,948.70	2,978.10	2,998.50		
E-5	1,814.10	1,935.30	2,028.60	2,124.60	2,273.70	2,402.10	2,496.60	2,526.60					
E-4	1,682.90	1,748.10	1,842.60	1,935.90	2,018.40								
E-3	1,501.20	1,595.70	1,692.00	1,692.00									
E-2	1,427.40												
E-1	1,273.50												
E-1A	1,178.10												

SOURCE: Defense Finance and Accounting Service

U.S. Air Force Graphic by Master Sgt. Adam Johnston

- An average 5.9 percent increase in housing allowances, with authority to increase set levels temporarily by as much as 20 percent in areas affected by natural disasters or troop surges resulting from force realignments;
- An increase of 2,000 pounds in the household goods weight allowance for senior noncommissioned officers E-7 and above;
- Enhanced death benefits, resulting in a total of \$238,000 for all deaths not previously qualified for enhanced benefits, and the permanent institution of a policy that continues the basic allowance for housing or government quarters for one year for families of deceased servicemembers;
- Authority to pay the applicable overseas cost-of-living allowance to dependents who remain at their location outside the continental United States when a servicemember deploys from that location;

- Expanded eligibility or increased ceilings for special pays for designated medical and dental officers, and officers with nuclear qualifications;
- A bonus of up to \$12,000

more than 30 days, vs. the previous 140-day requirement;

- Income replacement benefits to help offset the pay loss some reservists and guardsmen experience when called to active duty, based on specific guidelines provided in the law;

increases in the maximum pay-ment for accession and affiliation bonuses, from \$10,000 and \$15,000, respectively, to a consolidated \$20,000

for enlistment in the Selected Reserve;

- Boosts in the maximum affiliation bonus for officers in the Selected Reserve, from \$6,000 to \$10,000;
- A bonus that could total up to \$100,000 over a career for members with a designated critical skill or who volunteer to serve in a designated high-priority unit; and
- Extension of eligibility for a prior-service enlistment bonus to include Selected Reserve members who previously received one.

ously received one.

Mr. Witschonke emphasized that the new law does not guarantee that all servicemembers will qualify for these pays and benefits, or that those who do will receive the highest amounts authorized.

Rather, the law gives defense and service leaders the flexibility they need to tailor the force to meet operational, recruiting and retention goals.

The 2006 authorization act, like those in recent years, reflects steady progress in compensating servicemembers and their families with increased benefits and opportunities, he said.

"Every year for the past several years, our servicemembers have gotten larger pay, increased benefits and increased special incentive pays. This is a clear reflection of our Congress, our administration and our country wanting to take care of our servicemembers and their families," he said.

"The members of our uniformed services should feel very good about this year's defense bill as a follow-on to those from past few years," he said.

Still having trouble paying rent & utilities?

Here's your chance to set the record straight on how much it costs to live in Japan. All service members living off base who are drawing Overseas Housing Allowance should complete the 2006 OHA survey that is ongoing until Jan. 30. The Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee, which sets such rates as the cost of living allowance and travel per diem, conducts the annual survey. Respondents will be asked for average monthly costs of utilities and routine maintenance (such as electricity, water and trash pick-up).

The survey is online at:

<https://www.perdiem.osd.mil/oha/utility>

per year for both active and reserve members with certified language proficiency;

- Payment of travel and lodging for families of hospitalized servicemembers wounded in combat zones or other designated areas.

The law also provides a variety of benefits specifically targeting members of the reserve components. These include:

- Full housing allowance payments for reserve members called to active duty for



A foreign object damage sweep team scours an area of the Kadena Air Base flightline for debris Jan. 3 during the annual FOD walk, as a C-5 Galaxy sits on the tarmac. More than 1,000 Team Kadena members participated in the event and picked-up debris across 200 million square feet of airfield. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)



Kadena Airmen begin the foreign object damage walk at 6:45 a.m. on Jan. 3. Participants collected more than two truckloads of debris from the airfield during the annual event. FOD debris can do costly damage to aircraft and pose a significant safety threat if it's accidentally sucked into jet engines.

FOD FOR THOUGHT

Team Kadena sweeps flightline for debris

By Staff Sgt. Jason Lake
18th Wing Public Affairs

More than 1,000 Airmen, Sailors and other base workers collected more than two truckloads of debris during the annual Foreign Object Damage Walk – or FOD Walk – Jan. 3.

The large-scale effort to prevent stray debris from damaging aircraft on Kadena's airfield was part of the 18th Wing's safety day.

Last year, maintenance and repair costs for damage caused by foreign objects, such as rocks, at Kadena exceeded \$1.3 million, said Master Sgt. Warren Rogers, 18th Wing FOD prevention manager.

"The 2006 Annual FOD Walk was designed to raise awareness and educate the Kadena Air Base community about the potential airfield hazards of foreign objects and their catastrophic affects on our aircraft engines, aircraft

systems and associated components," said Sergeant Rogers. "Most importantly, it provided an opportunity to locate and retrieve foreign objects on the runways, infield areas and taxiways, which, if left alone, could potentially lead to a serious aircraft mishap."

Sergeant Rogers, who has been the wing's FOD manager since last August, said 80 percent of FOD-related incidents stem from airfield debris, such as lost tools and other small objects that go unnoticed during daily FOD checks. "Ninety percent of these incidents are preventable," he said.

Sergeant Rogers said anyone driving onto the flightline should always perform the mandatory FOD inspection of their vehicle and tires.

"During times of darkness, people should use a flashlight to complete the inspection," he said. "Additionally, all FOD should be placed into a designat-

ed container inside or outside the vehicle."

Eight Airmen were also rewarded for their "dedication" and for finding the most significant FOD items during the walk.

Golden Bolt awards for significant finds went to Capt. Eric Hudson, 18th Operation Support Squadron; Staff Sgt. John Roddy, 718th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Senior Airman Antwane Thomas, 18th Contracting Squadron; Senior Airman Kyle Gapinski, 18th Component Maintenance Squadron; and Airman 1st Class Jeremiah Jackson, 18th Equipment Maintenance Squadron.

Dedicated performer award winners were Staff Sgt. Brian Stamey, 33rd Rescue Squadron; Senior Airman Yvette Palacios, 18th Dental Squadron; and Airman 1st Class Stephen Gordon, 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron.



Capt. Eric Hudson, 18th Operations Support Squadron, (right), shows Airman 1st Class James Keating, 18th Munitions Squadron, the "golden bolt" he found during the annual FOD walk here. Event organizers placed five golden bolts randomly throughout the flightline as an incentive for people to look closely and pick up as much debris as possible. Those that found the bolts will be recognized during the next 18th Wing FOD prevention meeting.



Buses from the 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron transported FOD walk participants to the flightline for the annual event.



Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Chyrece Campbell

Fourth-grader Shayna Woods, daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Allan Woods, competes in the National Geography Bee finals at Amelia Earhart Intermediate School Jan. 5. Despite only being in the fourth grade and competing against sixth graders, Shayna placed second in the competition.



Kelly Kaneshiro, daughter of Melvin Kaneshiro, writes down the answer to the final question to clinch the geography bee championship.



Students from various grades cheered for their classmates in the school cafeteria during the hour-long competition.



Emily Kivi, daughter of Col. Eric Kivi of the 353rd Special Operations Group, and Shayna Woods look up answers to some of the questions they missed. Emily placed third in the geography bee.

Amelia Earhart holds National Geography Bee

By Master Sgt. Adam Johnston
18th Wing Public Affairs

"In April 2005, Pope John Paul II's funeral procession crossed St. Peters Square in which small European country?"

Kelly Kaneshiro, a sixth grader at Amelia Earhart Intermediate School, knew the answer because she said she remembered it from watching the news.

The answer: Vatican City

Kelly captured her school's championship title in a geography bee held Jan. 5 in a school cafeteria packed with fourth, fifth and sixth graders.

Kelly, daughter of Melvin Kaneshiro, a Department of Defense Dependent Schools - Pacific structural engineer, was one of 10

finalists in the school's annual contest, and said she was nervous standing in front of everybody.

Because of the amount of correct written and oral answers given during the first portion of the contest, Kelly earned an automatic spot in the final three-person championship round.

Shayna Woods, a fourth grader, and daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Allan Woods, placed second in the competition and Emily Kivi, daughter of Col. Eric Kivi of the 353rd Special Operations Group, placed third.

"I didn't know I was going to make it that far," said Shayna. "Once I was in the top two the questions got harder. It was harder to think and I just broke," she said.

According to Andrea Mial, com-

munication agent with Amelia Earhart Intermediate School, all base schools are holding an annual geography bee this month.

The National Geographic Society hosts the National Geographic Bee for students in the fourth through eighth grades in thousands of schools across the United States and in five territories, as well as the Department of Defense Dependent Schools around the world.

The national competition of the National Geographic Bee is scheduled for May 23 and 24 in Washington, D.C.

Charlotte McGinn, sponsor of Amelia Earhart's contest, said one representative from DoDDS worldwide will attend the national competition later in the year.

Today

BANYAN TREE: Super Ladies Night in the ballroom from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m.

- Mainstream and urban beats from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m.
- Flashback Fridays from 8 to 10 p.m. in the lounge.

- Latin, salsa and reggae music from 10 p.m. to close.

- Social Hour from 6 to 8 p.m.

EMERY LANES : Thunder Bowl from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.

ITT TOURS : Urashima Dinner Theater. For more information call ITT at 634-4322.

OFFICERS CLUB: Martin Luther King Jr. special dinner. Open to all ranks and services.

ROCKER NCO CLUB: Deja Vu Hits hits from 5 to 7 p.m.

- Variety dance hits from 7 p.m. to close.

- Kid's membership night show from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Lounge.

SCHILLING: Bingo starts at 2:00 p.m.

Saturday

BANYAN TREE : Hip Hop to Dirty South in the ballroom from 10 p.m. to close.

- Latin, salsa, and reggae from 10 p.m. until close in the lounge.

ITT TOURS: Deep Sea Fishing and Battle of Okinawa Tour. For more information call ITT at 634-4322.

ROCKERNCO CLUB : Top 40 dance hits from 7 p.m. to close.

- Variety music mixer in the Reflections Lounge.

Sunday

BANYAN TREE : Juke Box Jams from 7 to 10 p.m.

ROCKER NCO CLUB : Best of old and new variety from 7 p.m. to close.

EMERY LANES : Family day from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Three games for \$1 each.

ITT TOURS: Okinawa World-Gyokusendo Cave Tour. For more information call ITT at 634-4322.

Monday

BANYAN TREE : Juke Box Jams from 7 p.m. to close.

- Social Hour from 6 to 8 p.m.

ITT TOURS: Golf at Bell Beach. For more information call ITT at 634-4322.

ROCKER NCO CLUB: Classic to modern rock music selections from 7 to 11 p.m.

Tuesday

BANYAN TREE: Football Frenzy from 7 p.m. to close.

- Pool tournament begins at 7 p.m.
- Social Hour from 6 to 8 p.m.

ROCKER NCO CLUB : Football Frenzy from 7 to 11 p.m.

Wednesday

BANYAN TREE: Almost Nuts Band from 10 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Tops in Blue wows Kadena crowds



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Chyrece Campbell
Senior Airman Clifton Newell II (right), a Tops in Blue vocalist, sings as Capt. Wanda Parks of the 18th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, enjoys the performance at the Keystone Theater Saturday. Hundreds packed the theater to see the Air Force's premiere entertainment troupe during three performances here.

- Ladies night from 8 to 11 p.m.
- Dart tournament at 7 p.m.
- Social hour from 6 to 8 p.m.

ROCKER NCO CLUB: Jazz from 5 to 8 p.m.

- Ladies Night from 8 p.m. to close.

EMERY LANES : From 5 to 11 p.m. play games for 50 cents each.

ITT TOURS: Tea Ceremony Tour. For more information call ITT at 634-4322.

Thursday

BANYAN TREE: Country music from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Country dance lessons area available at 7 p.m.

- Social Hour from 6 to 8 p.m.

ROCKER NCO CLUB: Reggae in the lounge from 5 to 7 p.m.

- Karaoke from 7 to 11 p.m.

EMERY LANES : From 9 to 11 p.m. pay \$5 and play as many games possible in two hours.

Jan. 20

BANYAN TREE : Almost Nuts Band will be playing from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.

- Mainstream and urban beats from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m.
- Flashback Fridays from 8 to 10 p.m. in the lounge.

- Latin, salsa and reggae music from 10 p.m. to close.

- Social hour from 6 to 8 p.m.

EMERY LANES : Thunder Bowl from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.

ITT TOURS : Taste of the Town Tour. For more information call ITT at 634-4322.

ROCKERNCO CLUB: Deja Vu hits from 5 to 7 p.m.

- Variety dance hits from 7 p.m. to close.

- All the best of the 80s and 90s from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. in the lounge.

Jan. 21

BANYANTREE : Latin, salsa, and reggae from 10 p.m. until close in the ballroom.

- Hip Hop from 8 p.m. to close in the lounge.

ITT TOURS : Tunnel Rats Tour. For more information call ITT at 634-4322.

ROCKER NCO CLUB: Super Ladies Night from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m.

- Easy Listening Jazz from 7 p.m. to close.

Jan. 22

BANYANTREE : Juke Box Jams from 7 to 10 p.m.

EMERY LANES : Family Day from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Games are \$1 each.

ITT TOURS : Tangerine Picking Tour and Explore the North Tour. For more information call ITT at 634-4322.

ROCKER NCOCLUB : Best of old and new variety from 7 p.m. to close.

Jan. 23

BANYANTREE : Juke Box Jams from 7 p.m. to close.

- Social hour from 6 to 8 p.m.

ROCKERNCO CLUB: Classic to modern rock music selections from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Jan. 24

BANYAN TREE: Football Frenzy from 7 p.m. to close.

- Pool tournament begins at 7 p.m.
- Social hour from 6 to 8 p.m.

ROCKER NCOCLUB : Football Frenzy from 7 to 11 p.m.

ITT TOURS : Southern 100 Yen Shopping Tour. For more information call ITT at 634-4322.

Jan. 25

BANYAN TREE: Ladies night from 8 to 11 p.m.

- Dart tournament at 7 p.m.
- Social hour from 6 to 8 p.m.

ROCKER NCO CLUB: Jazz from 5 to 8 p.m.

- Ladies Night from 8 p.m. to close.

M O V I E S

Patrons should call Keystone Theater at 634-1869 or Butler Theater at 645-3465 to verify movie titles, showtimes and ratings.

* First Run shows are marked by an asterisk.

Keystone Theater

▲ Friday..... Legend of Zorro, PG, 6 p.m.

* King Kong, PG-13, 9 p.m.

▲ Saturday..... Legend of Zorro, PG, 12 p.m.

Jarhead, R, 4 p.m.

* King Kong, PG-13, 7 p.m.

▲ Sunday..... Legend of Zorro, PG, 12 p.m.

Jarhead, R, 4 p.m.

* King Kong, PG-13, 7 p.m.

▲ Monday..... *King Kong, PG-13, 7 p.m.

▲ Tuesday..... Legend of Zorro, R, 7 p.m.

Butler Theater

▲ Friday *Fun with Dick and Jane, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Jarhead, R, 10 p.m.

▲ Saturday..... Legend of Zorro, PG, 1 p.m.

*Fun with Dick and Jane, PG-13, 4 p.m.

Jarhead, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Jarhead, PG-13, 10 p.m.

C H A P E L

Catholic

▲ Monday through Friday : Mass, Chapel 2, noon.

▲ Saturday : Confession, Chapel 2, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Vigil Mass, Chapel 2, 5 p.m.

▲ Sunday : Mass, Chapel 3, 8:45 a.m.

Mass, Chapel 1, 12:30 and 5 p.m.

Protestant

▲ Wednesday : Bible Study, Chapel 2, 7 p.m.

▲ Sunday : Inspirational, Chapel 2, 8:30 a.m.

Liturgical, Chapel 3, 8:45 a.m.

Evangelical, Chapel 1, 9 a.m.

Traditional, Chapel 2, 10:30 a.m.

Gospel, Chapel 3, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday school, Bldg. 327, 8:45 & 10:45 a.m.

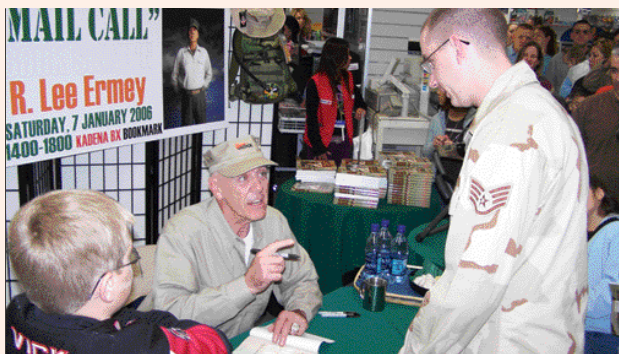
▲ Contemporary worship: Sundays, Chapel 1, 7:30 p.m.

▲ Eastern Orthodox services: Call 645-7486

▲ Jewish services: Call 637-1027

▲ Islamic services: Call 636-3219

Kadena "Mail Call"



Air Force/Capt. Carlos Diaz

Staff Sgt. Joshua Strang, 354th Communications Squadron, chats with TV personality and actor R. Lee Ermey during a book-signing Saturday in the Kadena Base Exchange. Mr. Ermey, host of the History Channel TV show "Mail Call," is also known for his role as the fiery drill sergeant from the movie "Full Metal Jacket." He was in Okinawa to visit troops and promote his new book, also entitled "Mail Call." Sergeant Strang is stationed at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, and was at Kadena awaiting transportation to Southwest Asia in support of an Air Expeditionary Force 10 deployment.

Becoming an adult

Japan holds unique ceremony for those coming of age

By Master Sgt.
Adam Johnston
18th Wing Public Affairs

Some Kadena residents traveling off-base last Sunday and Monday may have wondered why so many young Okinawans were dressed in traditional kimonos.

The answer: Coming of Age Day.

Although last Monday marked the national holiday, many Japanese born in 1985 attended ceremonies on Sunday at local city offices, town halls and community centers to celebrated the first day they are considered to be adults in Japan. The minimum legal age for voting, drinking and smoking in Japan is 20.

Anyone who has had their twentieth birthday since Jan. 1, or will turn 20 within the year, celebrated the day known in Japanese as *Seijin no hi*. They dressed to the "Ts" in traditional Japanese formal wear.

Women typically wear brightly colored kimonos that have long-sleeves called *furisode*. Men either wear *haori hakama* – a formal men's style kimono – or a Western-style dark-colored suit and tie to special ceremonies held with families and friends from junior high and high school.

Because a brand new kimono set can cost as much as \$10,000, most people rent the outfit like many Americans do for prom night. But, the rental fee – that ranges from 80,000 to 100,000 yen – usually includes free help in getting dressed in clothing that requires special knots and know-how.

"Nobody teaches you how to wear a kimono anymore," said Ayako Kinjo of the 18th Ser-



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Heather Tower
Twenty-year-old Japanese women wearing traditional furisode, or long-sleeved kimonos, celebrate Coming of Age Day in Okinawa City.

vices Squadron. She said most people need at least two or three people to help put on a kimono. "It's very difficult because it has to be worn a certain way," she said. "When I went to Coming of Age Day ceremonies it took about three hours to get ready. One hour at the hairdressers, one hour for makeup and one hour to get dressed in the kimono," she said. "By that time I was super hungry," she said with a laugh.

On her Coming of Age Day, Maki Yokoda, an accounting

technician with the 18th Civil Engineer Group, recalls waking up at 5 a.m. to go wait in line at the hair dresser because most beauticians are fully booked for the day. Ms. Yokoda said most *Seijin no hi* ceremonies start at noon and last a couple of hours, then most participants talk with friends for a few hours, then change to nightclub wear and go out to drink. "That's pretty much tradition," she said. "Some parents may also give their child money on this day to buy a car," she

said. Likewise, Ms. Yokoda said relatives typically give money gifts to 20-year-olds that day.

But Ms. Yokoda said some of that tradition is changing. "Lately, a lot of younger people who turn twenty would rather go on a trip than spend the money on renting a kimono and partying all night," she said. "When I went, there wasn't ever a thought in my mind that I wouldn't go to Coming of Age Day."

Ms. Yokoda said her parents paid for the costs of her burgundy kimono and photos. Ms. Kinjo said her grandmother tried using the studio photo she had shot for Coming of Age Day as a way to entice the photographer to marry her granddaughter. "That's how it was done in her day," Ms. Kinjo said. "Because I told her 'I'm not ready' may be the reason why I'm not married 10 years later," she said with a laugh. "My grandmother might have been right."

When Akiko Matsunaga, an administrative assistant with the 18th Wing judge advocate office celebrated the day, she said she paid about 80,000 to 100,000 yen for a special set that included hair dresser, kimono and photo session. "It's a good memory," she said. "Nowdays we rarely wear kimonos, so that's what makes the day so special. Plus the day marks the crossing of a big line from teenager to adult."

Ms. Matsunaga agreed that most participants stay out all night drinking on Coming of Age Day.

But she also laughed and said that the day after *Seiji no hi* might also unofficially be known as Big Hangover Day.

Ask Oba-chan



"Ask Oba-chan" (Grandma) is a forum for readers to ask Japanese cultural

questions. To submit a question, send an e-mail to: kade-nashogun.newspaper@kadena.af.mil with the subject line – ASK OBA-CHAN

Is it rude to call our office cleaner "mama-san?"

Although it has become common within the military community to do so, technically speaking, housekeepers, janitors, maids, waitresses, and the like should not be referred to, nor addressed, as mama-san.

I'm not exactly sure when the term "mama" entered the Japanese language. It is probable that the term "Mama-san" was first applied by foreigners.

The Portuguese were the first "Westerners" to enter Japan in the mid-1500s. When they arrived, we already had a practice of referring to the female owners of the forerunners of the Geisha Houses as "O-Ka-San" (honorable mother).

The term "Mama-san" became the informal title for the owners of Geisha houses, bars, and Japanese inns.

After World War II, soldiers in Japan began to use the term beyond these settings, and eventually it spread to become the informal title for females in many occupations. One research source noted that "mama-san" was also used as part of military vocabulary in other Asian countries.

Some people consider it rude to use the term "Mama-san" to call or address anyone other than those females in the traditional food, beverage, and entertainment professions, and even then only in the work setting itself. I certainly do not like to be referred to as Mama-san – not only because I am not your mother, but also because it is not technically or culturally correct. From a cultural sensitivity perspective, it is much more proper – and definitely more polite – to learn and use the person's name.

The Okinawa Perspective

The following is a synopsis of articles that appeared recently in Japanese newspapers.

- Representatives from Kadena's Support Center Pacific donated \$2,000 to the Misato Children's Home Dec. 22. The 18th Services Squadron also hosted a Christmas event at the home and provided meals Dec. 23. Volunteers from the 18th Civil Engineer Group, 18th Communications Squadron, and 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron helped with the event.

- A 21-year-old U.S. sailor admitted to Japanese police Saturday that he killed Yoshie Sato, 56, and robbed her of 15,000 yen. Japanese police arrest-

ed William Reese on suspicion of robbing and killing Sato Jan. 3 in Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture. Earlier in the day, the U.S. transferred custody of the Sailor to prefectural police after a warrant was issued for his arrest. Local residents living in areas hosting U.S. military bases expressed concern and anger over the incident. Suzuyo Takazato, who lives in Naha, said privileges for U.S. military personnel guaranteed under the Status of Forces Agreement remain a problem. "They can go outside the base without foreign resident registration, but when they commit crimes, their custody is not transferred unless the United States allows it," she said. "Such privileges are

encouraging crime."

- A taxi driver was robbed at knife point by a foreigner Saturday at Camp Foster after being summoned to make a pick up in front of a barracks inside the installation. The perpetrator allegedly ran away after getting approximately 5,000 yen from the driver. Ginowan Police are investigating the incident.

- One of the F-15 Eagles that arrived at Kadena from Langley Air Force Base, Va., Dec. 20 began flying on the morning of Jan. 5. The 18th Wing Public Affairs Office explained that the base is in the process of acquiring newer F-15's to replace the older models assigned to the wing. The project is slated to be complete in approximately two years. Witnesses said the F-15 began flight training with more than ten other Kadena Eagles.

Air Force selects Kadena woman as Athlete of Year

By Master Sgt. Marilyn C. Holliday
353rd Special Operations Group
Public Affairs

"I don't play sports to be recognized. I play sports because I love sports."

These were words spoken by the 2005 Air Force Services Agency's Female Athlete of the Year recipient, Staff Sgt. Twyla Sears.

And play sports she does.

She plays basketball, volleyball, softball and any other sport that's around - bowling, too. And for that, she was presented an Air Force-level award during a ceremony in Orlando, Fla. Nov. 30.

The power production journeyman, assigned to the 353rd Operations Support Squadron here makes time for sports wherever she's located.

As an Air Force spouse before becoming active duty, she played "ball" in England, Germany and Japan for nine years. But, her sports days began basically at birth, when her father had a glove and ball waiting for her when she came home from the hospital. "I'm not joking," Sergeant Sears said. "My mother told me the stories."

"I remember going out almost daily," said the 32-year-old California native. "Someone in our family was always playing." Sears was part of a traveling softball team in high school and was even awarded a softball scholarship to a university in Illinois.

Today, with the help of her husband, the mother of two boys ages 10 and 12 is also active in the sports development of her children. She takes the cues from her dad, who coached her until her senior year in high school.

"I make time for my family and I



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Chyrece Campbell
Twyla Sears, a staff sergeant from the 353rd Operations Support Squadron, was named the Air Force Female Athlete of the Year for 2005.

make time for myself," she said. "When it comes to teamwork, I have teamwork with the people that I work

with and with my family. Sports are a release for me. But, if my husband didn't support me, there's no way that

I could do the things that I do."

"Since Sergeant Sears, as an athlete, had successfully competed at the highest levels, I felt that it was important that she be afforded the opportunity to be recognized for those accomplishments," said Dawn Pierce, formerly of Kadena's 18th Services Squadron.

"We see many athletes who are fortunate enough to be able to compete at the Armed Forces level, but when one advances to national competition, where they compete against the Air Force's top athletes, it's a remarkable accomplishment."

Sergeant Sears claims that if it were not for encouragement from Ms. Pierce, she would have never thought of competing for the Air Force award. Sergeant Sears deployed seven times during the last two years, but still managed to play in nine softball tournaments this year alone.

As the starting pitcher for the All Armed Forces Women's Softball Team in 2004, she helped win the All American Award and led the team to win the Western Regionals Softball Tournament.

She then went on to help the team place second in the Amateur Softball Association National Tournament.

She is a member of the Kadena Women's Softball team, that earned the Pacific-wide Softball Championship title in 2005, and pitched for the 353rd Operations Support Squadron over-30 softball team that took the base championship title.

In addition to awards won on the field, Sergeant Sears was an Airman Leadership School distinguished graduate and was named the 353rd Operations Support Squadron Airman of the Year for 2004.

Volleyball tryouts



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Chyrece Campbell
(Right) Robert Evans, 390th Intelligence Squadron, hits the ball during the men's volleyball open try-outs held Saturday in the Risner Fitness Center. More than 15 people came out to demonstrate their volleyball talents in hopes of making the Kadena varsity volleyball team.

18 SVS, 909 ARS/961 AACs teams win 2005 Commander's Cup trophies

By Staff Sgt. Jason Lake
18th Wing Public Affairs

Three squadrons on two different teams came out on top to win the two commander's cup trophies last month.

The 18th Services Squadron was awarded the commander's cup for the large unit division while the 909th Air Refueling Squadron / 961st Airborne Air Control Squadron team was presented the small unit division commander's cup by Brig. Gen. Jan-Marc Jouas, 18th Wing commander, during a Kadena Team Staff Meeting Dec. 19.

According to Jason Vandenberg, 18th SVS Risner Fitness Center director, the trophies reflect on the units with the best participation rate and performance in organized sports - such as basketball, volleyball, soccer, softball and football - throughout the year.

The 18th SVS was the intramural champion in volleyball and basketball and the 909th ARS/961st AACs team was the regular season cham-

pion in volleyball.

"The common denominator for both squadrons was consistency and commitment," explained Mr. Vandenberg. "Both teams participated in all five of the sports on the calendar and had huge participation and spectator support throughout the ranks, from squadron commanders and chiefs all the way down to the youngest Airman."

Chief Master Sgt. Raymond Farrell, 909th ARS operations superintendent, said the commander's cup is great motivation for getting a unit involved in sports activities. It also 'levels the playing field' for smaller units with high operations tempo by combining units together.

"We could have never made it through the season [without the help of the 961st AACs] because of our unit's high operations tempo," said the chief, who played on the dual-units' volleyball, softball and soccer teams. "There were a lot of forfeited games from other teams throughout the year because of lack of players. I'm glad that we could combine our two teams."